

Minutes

Special Workshop

Takoma Park Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee 3 July 2004

Members present	Members absent
Andy Kelemen, chair	Caroline Beckham
Gayle Fisher-Stewart, vice chair	Buddy Daniels
Peter Kovar	
Wolfgang Mergner	
Michael Israel	
Larry Rubin	Guests

The purpose of this workshop was to take stock of where this committee is, and discuss in general what direction PSCAC should take for the coming year.

- It was decided that although the PSCAC was instituted to serve in an advisory capacity, there is nothing prohibiting the committee to “act” on ideas, policies, programs, or projects it deems appropriate.
- The committee should meet with the incoming City Manager: meeting has been scheduled for July 22, 2004, at 3 pm. Members who can attend should do so. The City Manager has also indicated that she would like to attend PSCAC meetings. Andy will circulate an email requesting talking points for the meeting with the City Manager.
- We need to recruit new members. We should meet with the council before interviews to ensure that prospective members possess certain skills. The committee should also advertise in the Takoma Voice and indicate which skills are needed (e.g. community organizing, grant writing, etc.) and on which programs or strategies the committee is working. Members should also personally invite persons to become members.
- In terms of community policing, it is difficult to determine what is being accomplished because we have no baseline. It is important that the department have the necessary technology (hardware/software) to provide the committee and the community with reports over time, that report trends, by officer/beat, and that can be used by the department for effective deployment. Gayle will work with the department to determine what technology is needed and where monies can be obtained to secure it.
- There is concern that the city would like to hand over the dispatch or other Police Department functions to the county. However, there are no data put forward that indicate that this would save money. The committee is against this move and will speak with Williams and Elrich who appear to support it.

- The committee should also meet bi-weekly with Chief Creamer to keep informed and to determine what department and her needs are.
- Regarding the NSC, the committee should work as a whole to ensure that this project/program is successful.
 - There is a need to make sure that NSCs see themselves as a united body.
 - We need to look into ways to communicate with them on a weekly basis (if not more). We can use list-serves, telephone trees, etc., however, we must also make sure that NSCs have the necessary technology available to them.
 - We also need to meet with the Neighborhood Associations, possibly late August or early September to gain additional NSCs.
 - There is also a need to increase the number of Neighborhood Red Cap Patrols. We could possibly piggyback off the success of the one in Ward 1.
 - We should also write articles about the NSCs and the strategies planned.

Action Items